

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS STATE 208472

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, NO, SW, FI, IC, DA

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN FOLKLORE CONSULTANT GORDON TRACIE VISITING SCANDINAVIA SEPTEMBER 4 TO OCTOBER 3 TO SELECT FOLK ARTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE. MAKING OWN TRAVEL, ACCOMODATIONS ARRANGEMENTS. USING CULTURAL OFFICE AS MAIL DROP AT EACH CAPITOL. WILL CONTACT CAOS ON ARRIVAL AND KEEP CAO INFORMED OF PLANS AND PROGRESS.

2. TRACIE ITINERARY AND MEANS OF TRAVEL AS FOLLOWS: SEPTEMBER 5 ARRIVE BERGEN BY AIR. SEPTEMBER 11 OSLO TO STOCKHOLM BY AIR. SEPTEMBER 11/12 STOCKHOLM TO HELSINKI BY BOAT. SEPTEMBER 17 FINLAND TO SWEDEN BY BOAT. SEPTEMBER 22 STOCKHOLM TO REYKJAVIK BY AIR. SEPTEMBER 27 REYKJAVIK TO THORSHAVN, FAEROE ISLANDS, BY AIR. SEPTEMBER 27 THORSHAVN TO COPENHAGEN BY AIR
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OCTOBER 3 COPENHAGEN TO SEATTLE BY AIR.

3. THREE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES PROVIDED 34 PARTICIPANTS FOR 1974 JOINT PRESENTATION, SELECTION CONDUCTED BY TRACIE

WORKING WITH LOCAL FOLKLORISTS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. 1976 FESTIVAL TO PRESENT MAXIMUM OF 15 PARTICIPANTS EACH FROM SWEDEN, NORWAY, DENMARK (INCLUDING FAEROE ISLANDS), AND FINLAND, PLUS SMALL NUMBER FROM ICELAND THEY WILL APPEAR JUNE 23 TO 27, SECOND WEEK OF TWELVE-WEEK FESTIVAL, WITH AMERICANS OF SCANDINAVIAN DESCENT CARRYING ON SIMILAR FOLKLORE TRADITIONS AS PART OF "OLD WAYS IN THE NEW WORLD" THEME AREA OF FESTIVAL. DENMARK, SWEDEN, FINLAND HAVE ADVISED THROUGH WASHINGTON EMBASSIES THEIR DESIRE PARTICIPATE AND WILLINGNESS FUND ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON. NORWAY AND ICELAND INTERESTED BUT NO FIRM COMMITMENT TO DATE. GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO COMPENSATE PARTICIPANTS FOR LOST WORK-TIME WHERE NECESSARY;

4. AFTER WASHINGTON PERFORMANCES, PARTICIPANTS WILL TOUR MAJOR CITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT SCANDINAVIAN COMMUNITIES FOR THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, TO PERFORM AT THEIR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. SMITHSONIAN COVERS ALL COSTS WITHIN U.S. ?OR FOOD, LODGING, TRAVEL, TEN DOLLARS PER DAY POCKET MONEY.

5. SMITHSONIAN MAILING TO CAOS TRACIE BIO DATA, 1975 FESTIVAL PROGRAM, ORIENTATION MATERIALS FOR PARTICIPANTS MEDIA COVERAGE WRAP-UP FOR POST GUIDANCE WHEN ARRANGING TRAVEL PLANS FOR PARTICIPANTS. BECAUSE 1974 PROGRAM CONDUCTED SO SMOOTHLY, ANTICIPATE FEW PROBLEMS WITH SELECTION AND TRAVEL OF 1976 PARTICIPANTS.

6. SMITHSONIAN WILL APPRECIATE POSTS' COOPERATION IN PROGRAM WHICH WILL YIELD EXTRAORDINARY MEDIA COVERAGE SINCE FESTIVAL IS MAJOR MULTINATIONAL CULTURAL EVENT OF THE BICENTENNIAL. WHILE TRACIE HAS OWN FOLKLORE AND GOVERNMENT CONTACTS, HE WILL WELCOME USIS GUIDANCE AND PRESENCE OF CAO OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE AT INITIAL CALLS ON GOVERNMENT.

7. FOR REYKJAVIK: TRACIE HAS NOT VISITED ICELAND PREVIOUSLY. ICELANDIC EMBASSY HERE ARRANGING HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS WITH MR. BJARNASON OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
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AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND CULTURE WHO FORM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE BICENTENNIAL. ROBINSON

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